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TODAY

Erez talks in high gear

JON IMMANUEL

THE joint Israeli-Palestinian steering committee, headed by former chief of staff Dan Shomron and Palestinian Authority minister Saeb Erekat, met for more than four hours at the Erez checkpoint yesterday, holding a preliminary discussion about Hebron.

Sources said that the ideas Israel raised have all been mentioned in recent days as ways to meet the government's concern for the security of 400 Jews living in the city.

These ideas include issuing pistols instead of rifles to Palestinian policemen; stationing troops on Jabal Abu Saneih, which overlooks the Jewish quarter; and increasing the number of soldiers through more joint patrols.

The Palestinian side neither accepted nor rejected the proposals, but today's talks "will be more important because we will get into the details," one of the sources said.

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, a confidante of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, said on the *Popolitika* TV program that he thought the talks would be completed within "one month, but it depends on the Palestinians."

Palestinian negotiator Hassan Asfour said that "nothing new" was raised in the talks yesterday. However, both sides described the atmosphere as "good."

Three US observers - special envoy Dennis Ross, Ambassador Martin Indyk and Consul-General Edward Abington - sat in on the meeting, arriving after it started. They are not expected to offer any proposals unless the talks become deadlocked.

After the meeting, Ross presented a statement on behalf of both sides, saying, "the talks were serious and businesslike."

The Palestinians have said that they will not reopen negotiations on Hebron and are willing to discuss only how the year-old agreement signed in Washington should be implemented.

Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe said yesterday that the Israeli position was "hypocritical," since the agreement on the Hebron withdrawal was reached in consultation with Israel's senior security officials, including Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan, the current OC Central Command.

Natshe said that placing the IDF on the high ground at Jabal Abu Saneih would not add to Israeli security since the entire "Old City" is surrounded by hills.

Within the 15%-20% of Hebron to remain under IDF control, "The soldiers will be armed, the soldiers will be armed, only the 20-30,000 Palestinians will not be armed. It is unnecessary to talk about the need for security because it is assured 100%," he said.

However, Natshe said that two proposals raised recently would probably not find any objection: increasing the number of joint patrols and international observers.

Natshe yesterday hosted Russian Ambassador Alexander Bovin, a signatory to the Oslo 2 agreement, which includes the agreement on redeploying in Hebron.

Last night, Israel and the Palestinians agreed that both sides would carry only pistols at the Karni truck crossing in Gaza, Israel Radio said.



United Arab List MK Taleb a-Sanaa (center) leaves the Knesset plenum after being ejected for waving a black flag during Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's address at yesterday's opening session of the Knesset's winter term. (Israel Herald)

Netanyahu may prefer final-status talks now

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said in the Knesset yesterday that after the Hebron issue is resolved, he is willing to negotiate the final disposition of the territories.

These final-status talks are supposed to deal with issues such as Jerusalem, settlements, refugees, and borders. Ironically, due to the little-understood intricacies of Oslo 2 on further Israeli pullbacks, this is beginning to look more appealing to Netanyahu.

It is important to note the timetable. Final-status talks were slated to begin on May 4, and to be completed three years later. The Peres government actually held a symbolic meeting before the elections, and the Palestinians cite the fact that such talks are not being held as yet another violation of agreements by the Netanyahu government.

(The US was hoping that

BACKGROUND DAVID MAKOVSKY

Netanyahu might announce a date for final-status talks at the White House summit, thereby enabling President Bill Clinton to point to some semblance of progress. However, Netanyahu refused, insisting that to do so would make it seem as if the Palestinians were being rewarded for the violence in the territories.)

Some senior officials suggest that they would prefer to talk about the final disposition of the territories than be put in the apparent straitjacket of Oslo 2, under which by next fall Israel is supposed to pull back from all the territories into "specified military locations" in three stages, while remaining in control of the settlers. (A broader term, withdrawal to "specified security locations," was used in the

Camp David Accords.) Moreover, the locations must also be specified by September 1997, so the issue cannot be fudged. In a broad sense, Oslo 2 attempted to unlink the territorial aspects of the final-status agreement, which would be decided by September 1997, from non-territorial aspects, such as Palestinian refugees, statehood, and Jerusalem, which did not have to be decided until May 1999.

In other words, the Palestinians could make major territorial gains before talks on such extremely difficult issues are resolved. There are those in Labor who say that if elected, they would have wrapped up all aspects of peace with the Palestinians within a year,

and therefore there would not have been a difference between the end of the pullback phase and the end of the final-status talks.

However, assuming the Netanyahu government does not want to complete final-status talks until it is obligated to do so, it could very well be entering the most critical phase of those talks with very few territorial cards left.

Thus it seems Netanyahu may have wanted to signal in earnest after already having yielded most of the territories.

Prime minister's adviser on terrorism warns of attacks

THE prime minister's adviser on combating terrorism has called on the public to increase its awareness and be on extra-sensitive alert for attacks by Islamic extremists this month.

"I don't want to panic the public," Brig.-Gen. Yigal Pressler said. "But there are alerts and I'm not just making this announcement for the bell of it."

He said there is fear - and information - that Islamic Jihad will try to conduct

attacks this month.

"October is considered by Islamic Jihad as the month of the intifada, and its activists are holding days of remembrance for a number of incidents, including the death of their leader Fathi Shkaki," Pressler said.

Shkaki was killed last October in Malta, and foreign reports said Israeli agents carried out the assassination.

"There exists a reasonable probability that the organization will try to act around these dates and carry out attacks," he added.

Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the fatal Dizengoff Square bombing last March. The group's current head, Ramadan Abdullah Shallah, who is based in Damascus, has declared recently that he wants to hurt the peace process and avenge his predecessor's death.

Weizman to meet with Arafat, Mubarak

PRESIDENT Ezer Weizman and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat are to meet at Weizman's Caesarea villa today to discuss the peace talks. Weizman's spokeswoman Batya Keinan said yesterday.

A meeting between Weizman and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Egypt is being scheduled for next week, she added. Arafat confirmed that he would

attend the meeting. It will only be Arafat's second trip to Israel. In November 1995, Arafat secretly visited Leah Rabin to express his condolences after her husband's assassination.

"I may be meeting with President Weizman tomorrow," Arafat said yesterday. Army Radio said Prime

Minister Binyamin Netanyahu would join the two leaders, but both Keinan and the Prime Minister's Office denied there were any plans for him to participate in the talks.

Keinan said Mubarak had invited Weizman to visit him, but that a specific date had yet to be decided upon. Weizman: We still need Egypt's support in peace process, Page 2

Bodyguard killed as Arafat's convoy crashes on way to Egypt

PALESTINIAN Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat was unhurt yesterday, after two jeeps in his convoy collided while en route to Egypt, killing one Palestinian officer and injuring four.

The jeeps crashed into each other as the convoy was leaving Gaza City, Palestinian officials said. Yusef Hader, 23, was killed, according to officials at Shifa Hospital in Gaza. Two members of Arafat's

personal guard and two police officers were hospitalized with serious injuries.

Arafat, who had been in another car, continued his trip and met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak later in the day. In May 1995, one of Arafat's guards was killed when the guard crashed into a tree while driving a jeep at the front of the convoy. (AP)

Our dear aunt and cousin
NINA "MIRIAM" BARRY
 widow of the late Jack (Justin) Barry
 has passed away.
 The funeral will take place today, Tuesday, October 8, 1996
 at the Holon Cemetery at 12:30 p.m.
 A bus will be available at 37 Bodenheimer St., Tel Aviv at 11:30 a.m.
 The family

PM, Peres clash as new Knesset session opens

LIAT COLLINS

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu told the Knesset yesterday that he intends to continue with the dialogue with the Palestinians and will begin final-status discussions after the Hebron redeployment issue had been resolved.

His address in the plenum was interrupted by heckling, which erupted barely a minute into his speech. Taleb a-Sanaa (United Arab List) not only accused him of causing the deaths of Palestinians in the recent disturbances, he also unfurled a black flag of mourning. He was eventually removed after being called to order three times.

Ahmed Sa'ad (Hadash) was also ejected for heckling. The debate lasted nearly five hours, but after a rough start, the plenum was almost empty and peaceful. Labor filed a no-confidence motion, but the vote on the motion will only be held next Monday.

Both Netanyahu and opposition leader Shimon Peres warmed up to their new roles during their turns at the lectern.

Netanyahu stressed the national consensus behind an agreement that grants maximum freedom to the Palestinians with maximum security for the Israelis. He repeated his commitment to signed agreements and to the principle of reciprocity.

"We are obviously committed to the Oslo agreement, even though we warned against the dangers it

entails," he said. "But we are also obliged to protect the safety of civilians... We stand on two basic principles: security and reciprocity in respecting agreements."

He stressed a strong and secure peace would be in the interests of both Israelis and Palestinians. He called on the Arabs to renounce terror and called on the world to avoid putting pressure on Israel.

"I call on the Palestinian public again to renounce violence and to go in the way of peace, to peace," Netanyahu said. "I call on the international community to examine the situation here truthfully, to seek the truth. There are so many falsehoods and lies."

He emphasized that he is the prime minister of the whole country.

"When this government was elected, it was clear that the citizens - and I don't necessarily mean those who voted for us - wanted two things: to continue the process of dialogue with the Palestinians in the hope that it would bring about true peace, and to get rid of the security threats which caused the murders of 220 Israelis since the Oslo agreements," Netanyahu said.

He said violations of the agreements are still taking place and called on Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to "stop the violence, disarm terror organizations, and stop freeing murderers."

(Continued on Page 2)

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Christopher: Israel must take concrete steps

DAVID MAKOVSKY

SECRETARY of State Warren Christopher yesterday urged Foreign Minister David Levy to take concrete steps that would demonstrate to the Palestinians that Israel is sincere about their welfare and about the peace process, diplomatic sources said.

meeting, Christopher said that he wants the talks on Hebron completed quickly. "I think we also have an acute sense of the shortness of time and desire that we make progress as rapidly as possible," he said.

IDF not ready to resume joint patrols in Judea and Samaria

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

THE IDF is in no rush to resume joint patrols with the Palestinian Police in Judea and Samaria, military sources said. Joint patrols in the West Bank were halted during the bloody riots two weeks ago. At least 20 border policemen engaged in the joint patrols were among the 15 soldiers killed. The joint patrols in the Gaza Strip were halted for two days, then resumed.

clashes and took no action against policemen who fired on IDF troops. The army is also using the renewal of the joint patrols as a lever to bring about the prosecution of policemen who opened fire.

The IDF announced the closure in Ramallah would be lifted as of 4:00 a.m. this morning. In a bid to make conditions easier for the Palestinians during the talks, Israel has already lifted the closure around Bethlehem, Jericho, Jenin, Tulkarim, and Kalkilya.



Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Foreign Minister David Levy shake hands at the press conference they held yesterday, following their meeting at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem. (Brian Riedler)

Rafael unveils the Python-4 air-to-air missile

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

RAFAEL has officially unveiled the Python-4, considered by many to be the best short-range, air-to-air missile in the world, and hopes to market it abroad.

The missile, developed with no foreign components, has been used by the IAF for several years. It will be seen by the public for the first time at the Seoul Air Show in South Korea, which opens next week. The show draws potential customers from across southeast Asia.

The Python-4 has a unique aerodynamic design which incorporates large fins, giving it superior agility. Most older missiles have small fins, so they don't turn well. The Python-4 is a heat-seeking, "fire and forget" missile, incorporating a high penetration warhead with an active proximity fuse, which allows it to be deadly even if it doesn't score a direct hit. The missile has never been tested in battle, however.

Rafael, in a statement, described the Python-4 as "the most advanced... missile to be carried by combat aircraft. The missile's unique maneuverability and all-weather sensitive seeker achieve the absolute advantage, even in the fiercest dogfights."

"I don't want to be too much of a braggart, but it has been said that this is the best air-to-air missile in the world," said Rafael spokesman Noah Shahar.

He would not quote a price for the missile, but said it would be competitive. "We believe that there is a great potential for marketing the Python-4," Shahar said.

He noted the Python-4 did not have any foreign components or technology so that there was no need for Rafael to get a foreign country's permission to sell it.

Despite the low profile, other countries have known about the Python for several years. Its current closest rival the Russian A-11, which is used by the Syrian MiG-29's, but the US is currently developing the A9X, which it is touting as competitive, not with the A-11, but with the Python-4.

Weizman says Egypt's support is essential for peace process

EVELYN GORDON

THERE is no hope for the peace process without Egypt's support, so Israel must work to obtain this support, despite the country's recent hostility towards Israel, President Ezer Weizman told a meeting of former MKs at the Knesset yesterday.

"Egypt is the leader in these matters," he explained. "Without Egypt, it is very hard to go in the direction of either peace or war."

Therefore, despite the anger they cause, the attacks on Israel in the Egyptian press should not be allowed to affect our relations with Egypt - especially, he said, as our press is also not always innocent of wrongdoing.

The president added that it was an illusion to think Jordan could take Egypt's place as Israel's major Arab ally.

"Jordan is a small state which depends on the rest of the Arab world," he said. "It can't lead the pack."

In addition to Egypt, Weizman said, another crucial factor that Israel must consider is the upcoming American elections, which incumbent President Bill Clinton seems almost certain to win.

"The Americans are angry," he said. "And

there's one thing we have to understand: That is that a president in his final term is a completely different president... We need to prepare for this."

Weizman said that even though the peace process is now "at the height of a crisis," he was cautiously optimistic, because everyone involved - Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Egypt, Jordan and the US - understands that they have a great deal to lose from its collapse. However, he warned, the talks will succeed only if all the parties "think very hard" about their behavior.

"No one has been especially righteous," he said. It is also important not to get bogged down in assigning blame, Weizman said. While figuring out who was responsible for the crisis is an important task for academics, the important question for the politicians is what can be done to resolve it.

In this context, he said, it is important to remember that Yasser Arafat is the first elected Palestinian leader - whether Israel likes it or

not. In addition, he said, though he is a "great believer" in the value of personal contacts, it is not enough for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to meet Arafat and tell him to have faith; it will all work out.

"You also have to give something, to put something on the table," Weizman said. Israel must find ways to protect its security, the president added, but it must also avoid putting itself at odds with the entire world, and this means taking the Palestinians' needs into account. The alternative is not only the threat of more violence, he said, but also an economic crisis, since the peace process has been one of the major spurs to the economy over the past three years.

"Three weeks ago, we were in a good position economically," he said. "But I don't know what will be. There are already question marks."

Weizman also implicitly pushed for moving ahead with final-status talks, noting that while his position as president forbids him to express an opinion on the matter now, before his election he had advocated starting final-status talks immediately.

Dole: I won't make Mideast a US issue

HILLEL KUTTLER WASHINGTON

REPUBLICAN presidential candidate Robert Dole, who accused President Bill Clinton last week of straggling the emergency Middle East summit as a photo opportunity, has now stated that the peace process should not become an American political issue.

At Sunday night's presidential debate, Dole also charged the Clinton administration with managing the recent Middle East crisis - and overall American foreign policy - on an ad-hoc basis. He said the administration had not achieved much at the summit.

Clinton defended calling the meeting, saying Israeli-Palestinian distrust demanded he take the step.

"The Mideast is very difficult, but it seemed to me, just as an observer, that before you'd call somebody to America, you'd have

some notion what the end result might be," Dole said in response to a question by PBS news anchor Jim Lehrer during the debate in Hartford, Connecticut. "Now maybe it's better just to get together and sit down and talk. Maybe that was the purpose."

The exchange was the only one dealing with Israel during the first of the two scheduled presidential debates. Their 90-minute exchange dealt primarily with economic policy and quality of life issues. The candidates also clashed over American policy toward Cuba and over Clinton's handling of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's recent threats against Kuwait and Iraqi Kurds.

Dole said he was "disappointed" Clinton had not called for an unconditional end to last month's Israeli-Palestinian fighting.

"[The Middle East] is a difficult area. No doubt about it," he said. "It shouldn't be politicized in any way by the president or by his opponent. And I don't intend to politicize it. I hope that they talk and I hope they reach some result and that the killing will end."

Clinton underscored the administration's support for the peace process, for Israel's security and for those taking risks for peace. "I would like to have had a big, organized summit," Clinton said. "But those people were killing each other, rapidly. Innocent

Arab children, innocent Israeli people. They were dying. So much trust has broken down in the aftermath of the change of [Israel's] government. I felt that if I could just get the parties together to say, 'Let's stop the violence, start talking, commit to the negotiations,' that would be a plus."

Meanwhile, according to syndicated columnist Rowland Evans and Robert Novak, Clinton agreed to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's condition that at the summit, he would not pressure Netanyahu at all.

Clinton "did not try very hard" at the summit to get Netanyahu to commit to a deadline for the Hebron redeployment, the columnist yesterday quoted US officials as saying. Related Stories, Page 5

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man killed while changing tire
Mahdi Hijazi, 27, of Tamra, was killed Sunday night, when he was hit by a truck while changing a flat tire on his car a kilometer from the Yagur junction, near Haifa. *Itim*

Body washes ashore in Tel Aviv
The body of a man was discovered on the rocks off Tel Aviv's Dolphinarium Beach yesterday. The body is in an advanced state of decay and has been sent to the National Forensics Institute at Abu Kabir, in an attempt to identify it. *Itim*

Katsav, Jordanian minister meet in Bangkok
Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav yesterday held a joint press conference with his Jordanian counterpart at the annual convention of the American Society of Travel Agents in Bangkok. The two spoke of their commitment to peace and of such joint projects as the Lowest Park in the World, which is to be set up along the border at the Dead Sea. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

SLA soldier lightly wounded
A South Lebanese Army soldier was lightly wounded as fighting continued in the security zone yesterday evening. He was evacuated to a hospital. The wounded soldier was among troops manning a position in the zone's eastern sector that came under fire from mortars. The mortar attack is believed to have been carried by Hizbullah, which together with its rival Amal, has intensified operations against the IDF and SLA in the zone recently.

IDF and SLA gunners returned fire, sparking an exchange which lasted several hours. *David Rudge*

IAF Cobra crash lands
An IAF Cobra helicopter crash landed in a field near Kiryat Gat yesterday. There were no injuries, but the helicopter was slightly damaged.

A week ago, two Bell helicopters crash landed during training. Nine servicemen were killed and two went missing in two helicopter crashes this year. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

Combat soldiers get a raise
The average wage of combat soldiers will now be about NIS 550 a month, double what rear echelon troops receive. The IDF Spokesman said it was decided to grant the raise as an "expression of the value the army holds for their efforts and recognition of their difficult service conditions." Soldiers attending combat-training courses are also receiving the raise. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

UNIFIL spokesman invited to live in Lebanon
LEBANESE Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri has invited UNIFIL's senior political adviser Timur Goksel to live in Lebanon rather than Israel, following a burglary at his home in Nahariya. Lebanese newspapers reported yesterday that Berri made the offer in a letter to Goksel, who is also UNIFIL's spokesman. As-Safir reported that Berri, who is also the head of

(Continued from Page 1) He said the Palestinians must show they are serious about the peace option by stopping the terror and recalled Anwar Sadat's words: "No more war, no more bloodshed." He said the negotiating process is fraught with hazards and frustrations, but can only succeed if the sides refuse to use the obstacles as an excuse for violence.

Netanyahu said Israel is preparing for redeployment in Hebron, while protecting two principles: the security of the res-

idents of the Jewish community in Hebron, the oldest Jewish city in the world, and ensuring the safety of the holy places in Hebron." He said the arrangements would ensure this, adding that if the Hebron agreement were to explode it could bring down the whole peace process with it. He also noted the humane aspects of relieving the situation for both Arabs and Jews in the city, and said he was acting to ease the closure and curfew as much as possible, given the security situation.

KNESSET
Peres was in a fighting mood. He was repeatedly heckled - mainly by Benny Elon (Mokedet) - for having given the Arabs guns. He responded: "So take them back! You have tanks. Go take them!"

The theme of his speech was a list of "foolish mistakes" he said Netanyahu had made. These included the meeting with Arafat despite Likud election promises; the opening of the new exit from the Hasmonean Tunnel; delaying the Hebron redeployment; rejecting foreign aid from the US; stating Israel will not leave the Golan Heights, while demanding negotiations with the Syrians with no preconditions; achieving nothing in the US; and insulting Egypt.

He likened him to a person who goes to a horse race, asks why all the horses are galloping, and decides to be a tortoise instead. "But if you are a tortoise, will the horses stop galloping?" Peres asked.

Israeli Embassy bomb trial continues in London

LONDON (Reuters) - A Palestinian housewife drove a car carrying the bomb that badly damaged the Israeli Embassy here in 1994 in a bid to derail the Arab-Israeli peace process, prosecution lawyers told a London court yesterday.

David Calvert-Smith alleged Nadia Zekra was a member of a group of middle-class, London-based Palestinians who believe that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is "misguided in his attempts to come to any accommodation with Israel."

The bomb, which exploded in July 1994, badly damaged the embassy and shattered the windows of nearby houses. No one was injured.

Calvert-Smith told the court that Zekra left the bomb in the trunk of a car which had been parked close to the embassy as possible. Zekra, 49, has denied the charge of causing an explosion. Another woman and two men on trial with Zekra deny conspiracy charges. They are accused of taking part in the planning and manufacturing of the bomb and a second bomb which exploded outside a Jewish charitable organization in London. The bomb was set off at the embassy after prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and King Hussein of Jordan signed the Washington Declaration paving the way for peace between their countries.

The same day, letters claiming responsibility for the attack were posted to two Arabic newspapers and the PLO's London offices from a group calling itself the "Palestine Resistance Jaffa Group in Palestine." Calvert-Smith said.

He said all four defendants "are of Palestinian origin and are well integrated into English society and the middle and upper-middle classes."

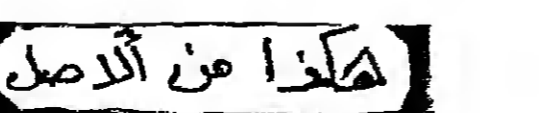
UNITED STATES-ISRAEL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION

is announcing funding availability for research and development projects by industrial plants in Israel and the USA, in cooperation with university research institutions.

Proposals should be aimed at reducing the use of methyl bromide, or preventing its release into the atmosphere.

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Education and Culture Minister Zevulun Hammer meets yesterday in Jerusalem with his South Korean counterpart, Dr. Ahn Byung Young. The two discussed launching joint projects. (Efrain Kishitok)

IDF to allow outside investigation of 1992 training accident

EVELYN GORDON

IN an unprecedented move, the IDF will permit a 1992 training accident to be investigated by an external committee headed by a retired judge, the state told the High Court of Justice yesterday.

This is the first time the IDF has ever permitted an external investigation.

"This is a precedent-setting achievement of the first order," said attorney Eliahu Shraga, representing the parents of soldiers Gil Tzuriano and Assaf Rosenberg, who fell to their deaths when a rescue helicopter's cable snapped during a drill. "This is truly a great victory."

The state's announcement was in response to the parents' petition. The accident had been investigated by two different IDF inquiry committees, which reached contradictory conclusions, and the parents had therefore asked the court to order an external committee appointed to determine the truth.

Michael Ben-Yair admitted that four years after the accident, what really happened is still not known. This is problematic for the IDF, which needs to know how to prevent similar accidents, and equally so for the parents, whose distrust of a procedure which produced two conflicting reports, though unjustified, is understandable, he said.

Therefore, the IDF has decided to take the "unusual" step of appointing an external inquiry committee headed by a retired district court judge, the affidavit said.

The committee will be composed of senior reserve officers and civilian experts — another unusual move, since such committees are usually composed of serving officers. Furthermore, Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak will allow the parents to propose nominees, as long as they meet the necessary qualifications.

The IDF, Ben-Yair said, will accept whatever the committee finds, but will consider this absolutely the last word on the subject.

However, he added, it will set up this committee only if the parents drop their other demands, or after the court has ruled on both this petition and an earlier one

demanding that the helicopter's mechanic be indicted for negligence. There is no point to the committee if criminal proceedings are being conducted on the very points it is supposed to investigate, he said.

The parents' demand for a police investigation into the second committee is unjustified anyway, the affidavit continued, since there is no evidence of wrongdoing.

For instance, it said, criticism of the decision to stop a Military Police investigation, which the parents claimed had appeared in a first draft of one report but been erased from the final version, actually appeared in the final version, but not in the first draft. Inquiry committees acting in good faith can still reach conflicting conclusions, Ben-Yair stressed, so the police will not investigate unless the external committee uncovers grounds for doing so.

Finally, Ben-Yair told the court the IDF has decided to change orders allowing senior officers to order an inquiry committee into soldiers' deaths in place of a Military Police investigation. This option will not be eliminated, as the parents had wished, but the right to exercise it will be transferred into the hands of the judge-advocate general, he said.

Policeman said to have shot illegal parker in Givatayim

RAINE MARCUS

THE Justice Ministry's police investigation division is to probe an incident in Givatayim yesterday, in which a policeman allegedly shot at a man who was being ticketed for parking illegally.

According to police, the driver refused to accept the traffic ticket written by one of two patrolmen, and then tried to run one of them over. Police also said he beat up one of the policemen, who was then forced to "fire shots in the air."

Two bullets hit the driver's car, and one ricocheted back on the 30-year-old Ramat Gan resident, wounding him lightly in the leg. The policeman was also taken to the hospital suffering from light injuries.

The driver said the shots were unprovoked. According to eyewitnesses, the policeman shot at the driver after the latter had already received the parking ticket and was about to drive off.

"We pleaded with the policeman not to shoot," one man in the area said.

It is thought the driver may have refused to show his license and give his personal details, one source said.

Other passersby said that the two policemen beat the offending driver even after he had been placed in the Magen David Adom ambulance called to take him to hospital.

The driver was detained for questioning after receiving medical treatment.

Country to mark World Depression Day as part of Mental Health Week

JUDY SIEGEL

ISRAELIS will on Thursday mark World Depression Day for the first time — though it has nothing to do with the political or security situation.

The event, begun six years ago by the American Psychiatric Association, Harvard Medical School and McLean Hospital in the US, aims at helping people to screen themselves for low moods using a questionnaire.

Called "Blue Thursday," the awareness day has been integrated into Mental Health Week and organized by Eran (Emotional First Aid, the over-the-phone volunteer service) and the Psagot Institute in Ramat Gan.

In the US alone, 2,000 centers offering free counseling and assessment will be open for Blue Thursday. Here, open phone lines are to be available from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m. They are to be manned by psychologists, psychiatrists and clinical social workers (at 03-5741858 or 03-5461111).

In addition, information stands will be open in the courtyard outside the Tel Aviv Cinematheque on Thursday from 8 p.m. to midnight and on Friday in the Nahlat

Binyamin pedestrian mall from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Merav Shani of the Psagot Institute notes that anyone can be acutely depressed without suffering from mental illness, but that it is important to pick up the signals in time so the condition can be treated.

In 80 percent of the cases, there is no logical reason for depression. In other cases, the person becomes depressed from the death or severe illness of a close relative, separation, career problems or loss of property. Depression may also hit as a result of taking certain medications, hormonal problems, alcohol consumption or liver or renal (kidney) insufficiency.

Visitors to the information booths and those who call may fill out an anonymous questionnaire listing 23 statements, which they will self-grade according to a point system.

Those with over 40 points may be in deep depression; from 30 to 39 in moderate depression; from 22 to 29 in light depression and below that have no mood problem.

Herzliya parents keep children out of school

ATTENDANCE was very light in Herzliya schools yesterday, as parents kept their children home to protest the low amount the city budgets for education.

The local Parents Committee, which has twice previously called similar strikes, said the city only spends a third as much on education as nearby Ramat Hasharon, Ra'anana, or Kfar Sava.

After the previous strikes, a commission headed by an accountant determined that Herzliya spends approximately the same on education as other local authorities, but the parents rejected these findings.

Mayor Eli Landau said he has had no contact with the Parents Committee since its decision to strike. He charged the strike was fomented by several parents for political reasons, and said he is proud of his city's educational achievements.

Education Ministry Director-General Benzion Dell said that "this is not the way to solve local problems, and seems especially strange in Herzliya, where the mayor has advanced education several levels." (Itim)

Nahum Tim Gidal buried

DR. Ignaz Nahum Tim Gidal, one of the world's first photojournalists, was buried yesterday in Jerusalem. He died Friday at 87.

He mounted over 15 solo and group exhibitions at museums in Europe, the US, and Israel. Many of his images were added to public collections.

His publications included a number of studies about photojournalism and the contribution of Jews to photography, a history of German Jewry (in German), and several large-format books about Israel and Jerusalem, illustrated with his own and collected photographs. He was among the earliest news photographers to publish reports in color.

Gidal was born in Munich in 1909. While a student at the universities of Munich and Berlin, he published his first photo essay on hippy-like vagabonds in the *Muenchner Illustrierte Press* in 1929.

Gidal traveled widely with his camera; in the early '30s he visited many European countries and Palestine.

After spending many years abroad, Gidal returned to Jerusalem in 1970 to take a professorship in communications at the Hebrew University. In 1983 he was awarded the prestigious Erich Salomon Prize. Gidal is survived by his wife Pia and his son Peter. David Brauner

Hollywood director urges local filmmakers to focus on Israel

HELEN KAYE

DESPITE the regional unrest, noted Hollywood director Arthur Hiller feels perfectly comfortable about being in Israel.

"I knew that the areas we'd be in wouldn't be areas of trouble," he said at the Hilton yesterday, "although lots of people told me don't go."

Hiller, who is president of the American Academy of Film Arts and Sciences, is the guest of honor at tonight's Israel Film Academy Awards at the Manna Auditorium, where he will present the prize for Best Screenplay. Best remembered for his blockbuster hit *Low Story*, Hiller has made some 30 films in his long career.

The local Academy Awards, he said, "encourage the young people going into film to strive for excellence." He urged local filmmakers "to make Israeli films, not American ones. Let your own culture guide you."

In a related development, Education and Culture Minister Zevulun Hammer announced yesterday that there would be no budget cut to film institutions such as the Quality Film Foundation and the New Film and Television Foundation. Following a meeting with film industry representatives and Trade and Industry Minister Natan Sharansky, Hammer further announced that should Sharansky's ministry be forced to make a threatened cut of NIS 5.5 million, his office would make up the sum, in addition to the NIS 12m. already budgeted.

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Clinton-Dole presidential debate fails to produce knockout blow

ALAN ELSNER
HARTFORD, Connecticut

LIKE two wary boxers, President Bill Clinton and Republican challenger Bob Dole traded jabs and barbs in the first presidential debate on Sunday, with both scoring points but neither landing a knockout blow.

Dole, trailing by 15 percentage points in the latest Reuters poll and badly needing a clear victory to get back in the race, was more aggressive, mixing blunt attacks on Clinton with witty asides while avoiding excessive harshness.

With one month until Election Day, Clinton was mostly content to defend his record, only occasionally coming out to attack Dole and the Republican-led Congress.

"This debate won't change anybody's mind," said Wayne Field, a historian of presidential speeches at Washington University in St. Louis. "There were no real surprises, and in some ways it showed these two men ideologically are not so very far apart. If anything, this may help Dole a little. He may get a ounce up."

Three instant public opinion polls by ABC, CBS and CNN television networks suggested Clinton was the winner.

This debate was the first of two scheduled encounters between Clinton and Dole. The next is scheduled for October 16 in San Diego, with a vice presidential debate between incumbent Al Gore and Republican Jack Kemp tomorrow.

Reform Party candidate Ross Perot was excluded from participating in any debates because of his low standing in the polls.

Clinton quickly set the tone of the 90-minute debate, in his opening statement. "Four years ago you took me on faith, now there's a record... We are better off than we were four years ago. Let's keep it going," he declared.

Dole, who looked nervous at first, quickly shot back. "Well, he's better off than he was four years ago," getting a laugh from the audience in Hartford's Bushnell Theatre.

Dole continued, "I may be better off four years from now... Well, I guess some may be better off. [Iraq leader] Saddam Hussein is probably better off."

The Republican candidate later returned to that theme, arguing that Clinton's recent bombing in Iraq had failed to deter the Iraqi



President Bill Clinton and GOP candidate Bob Dole shake hands after their first debate in Hartford, Conn., on Sunday night. (AP)

leader from establishing control over the north of his country, while demonstrating his failure to keep an international coalition together. He also attacked Clinton's record on Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, Korea, Cuba, Ireland and the Middle East.

Moderator Jim Lehrer of public television kept the candidates moving quickly through a broad array of subjects, from foreign policy to health, education, drugs, taxes and personal integrity.

"There were no major gaffes on either side," said David Birdsall, an expert on presidential debates with Baruch College in New York. "Dole never managed to get under Clinton's skin. Dole seemed friendlier but not particularly presidential. It was a draw and a draw helps Clinton."

Speaking to a rally after the debate, Clinton said Dole "did a very good job" but was clearly pleased with his performance, giving the thumbs sign up to the

crowd.

Dole told his rally. "The record will show that we turned it around in Hartford, Connecticut, tonight."

One of the sharpest exchanges during the debate came when Clinton accused Dole of opposing his efforts to rein in tobacco companies. "It wasn't me who opposed what we tried to do to save the lives of children who were subject to tobacco and then went to the tobacco growers and bragged about standing up to the government when we tried to stop the advertising, marketing and sales of tobacco to children," he said.

Dole responded by touting his own anti-smoking record dating back to 1965. "It wasn't until election year, Mr. President, that he thought about stopping smoking. What about drugs that doubled in the last 44 months? Cocaine up 41 percent, marijuana, cocaine up 166 percent. It seems to me that you have a selective memory,"

Dole said.

Both sides sent out an array of experts to brag to the media about their candidate's performance.

Republican Gov. Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania said Dole had spoken about people while Clinton focused on government programs.

"Americans finally got to see the warmth, humor and compassion of Bob Dole," he said.

For the Democrats, White House adviser George Stephanopoulos said: "A win for the president tonight was a chance for the president to talk about his priorities, and that's exactly what he did."

Clearly anxious not to seem harsh, Dole refused several invitations from Lehrer to launch personal attacks on Clinton. But he did bring up the issue of Whitewater by asking whether Clinton would pardon his former colleagues who were convicted in relation to the financial and real estate scandal. Clinton said he

would give no special favors.

With Clinton taking credit for a long litany of achievements, Dole said the president reminded him of his late brother Kenny, who was an inveterate exaggerator. "The president can't take credit for everything the governors are doing," Dole said. "He just likes to make it sound a little better and then you'll feel better."

Another heated exchange came on Clinton's repeated statement that he wanted to build a bridge to the future.

"I want a bridge to the future but I also want a bridge to the truth... The truth is, there's a lot wrong in America," Dole said.

When Dole touted his 15 percent income tax cut, Clinton hit back: "His running mate, Jack Kemp, once said Sen. Dole never met a tax he didn't bike."

The debate ended with both men saying that despite their differences, they liked each other personally. (Reuters)

Candidates trade quips and catch phrases

HARTFORD, Connecticut (Reuters) - Republican presidential challenger Bob Dole trotted out some old winning lines from that master of one-liners, former Republican President Ronald Reagan, in his debate with President Bill Clinton.

And Clinton, too, gave the millions of television viewers and those in the Bushnell Theatre audience a taste of some folksy lines that have worked on the campaign trail.

Back in 1980 in his debate with then President Jimmy Carter, whom he later defeated, Reagan asked the public, "Are you better off than you were four years ago?"

That line worked for Reagan and is cited as one of the key moments in the history of presidential debates.

And Republican Dole pulled that one out of his hat on Sunday after Clinton took off on the Reagan words by saying of the economy, "We are better off than we were four years ago. Let's keep it going."

Dole shortly struck back with the Reagan line with an added couple of twists:

"Well, he's better off than he was four years ago... We ask the people who are viewing tonight, are you better off than you were four years ago?"

Also in his 1980 debate, Reagan quipped with a smile, "There you go again," when he disagreed with what Carter had said.

Sunday Dole also used that line to a litany from Clinton of his accomplishments and promises for his second term if re-elected.

"Well, there he's goes again," Dole said. "I mean, it's a line that's been used before. But, exaggerating all the things that he did. He didn't do all these things."

In the 1984 campaign again Democrat Walter Mondale, Reagan was fighting concerns that he was too old for the job. In his debate with the much younger Mondale, he said that he would not use age as an issue. "I'm not going to exploit for political purposes my opponent's youth and inexperience."

On Sunday the 73-year-old Dole used a similar line in comparing his health to the 50-year-old president in an effort to deflate concerns about Dole's age and health.

"Well, my blood pressure's lower and my weight, my cholesterol," he said. "But, I will not make health an issue in this campaign."

Clinton pulled out some homey stoppers too, having a quick response when Dole accused him of being a liberal.

Clinton called the liberal label, "It's sort of their golden oldie, you know. It's a record they think they can play that everybody loves to hear. And I just don't think that dog will hunt this time."

On Dole's 15 percent income tax rate cut, the Republican said of moderator Jim Lehrer "and you'll be eligible."

Then Clinton interjected: "Me, too?"

Dole, who was known for his quick retorts when he was a Senate leader, responded: "So will the former president, yes."

Clinton came back with "That's good" to laughter, adding: "I need it."

On his now famous fall from a platform in Chico, Calif., Dole got a dig into trial lawyers who support Clinton with campaign money and a quip: "When I fell off that podium in Chico, before I hit the ground I had a call on my cell phone from a trial lawyer... saying I think we got ease here," he said to laughter from the audience.

Polls: Clinton won

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Bill Clinton won Sunday night's presidential debate with Republican Bob Dole, according to three polls conducted immediately after the 90-minute encounter in Hartford, Connecticut.

A Gallup poll conducted for CNN found that 51 percent of Americans believed Clinton won the debate, compared to 32 percent who were more impressed with Dole's performance.

But 74 percent of the people polled said Dole did better than they expected. A CBS News snap poll gave Clinton 50 percent to Dole's 28 percent, with 17 percent calling the debate a tie.

Results in an ABC News poll were similar, with 50 percent calling the debate a triumph for Clinton, compared to 29 percent for Dole. Nineteen percent said it was a tie.

The ABC poll showed that both candidates appeared to benefit modestly from their showing in the debate, with Clinton's support rising to 55 percent from 51 percent and Dole's backing inching to 41 percent from 40 percent. Support for Reform Party candidate Ross Perot, who was excluded from the debate, dipped to 2 percent from 5 percent in the ABC poll.

China frees member of Gang of Four

BEIJING (AP) - Yao Wenyuan, a member of the "Gang of Four" that dragged China through one of its ugliest periods of political turmoil, has been released after serving a 20-year prison sentence, the government said yesterday.

A spokesman for China's Cabinet, the State Council, said Yao, 65, was freed Saturday and that he was healthy.

But the spokesman refused to provide details, a possible sign that the government still regards Yao as a sensitive figure 20 years after his arrest. The spokesman also refused to give his name.

The Gang of Four, led by Chairman Mao Tse-tung's wife Jiang Qing, incited some of the worst violence of the 1966-1976 "Cultural Revolution," when millions of Chinese were persecuted and killed.

Yao, a former journalist, was the gang's propagandist. He used China's media to attack the gang's enemies, including Deng Xiaoping, now China's paramount leader.

Yao and the rest of the gang were arrested October 6, 1976, less than a month after Mao's death. It was Mao who dreamed up the "Cultural

Revolution" to counter his political rivals, calling on young Chinese to "bombard the headquarters" and attack government officials. The Gang of Four egged the militants on and used the movement to further their own political careers.

After a sensational show trial, Yao was convicted in 1981 of plotting to seize power and of persecuting officials and ordinary people. His 20-year sentence was retroactive to the date of his arrest.

Yao also lost his political rights for five years after his release. This gives authorities leverage to restrict his movement and contacts, including those with foreign reporters.

Yao is one of two surviving members of the Gang of Four, said the State Council spokesman. Zhang Chunqiao, rumored in some reports to have died, is still alive and serving his life sentence.

Zhang and Jiang Qing were both given death sentences that were commuted to life imprisonment. Jiang committed suicide in 1991.

Wang Hongwen, the youngest of the gang, was sentenced to life imprisonment and died of a liver ailment in 1992.

Afghan forces square off amid world concern

KABUL (Reuters) - Taliban and rival military forces faced each other in a tense standoff in mountainous north of Kabul yesterday amid growing concern among Afghanistan's neighbors that hostilities could spread in the region.

The hardline Islamic militia, which captured Kabul a week ago, pushed northward toward the strategic Panjshir Valley where an offensive against former military chief Ahmad Shah Masoud appeared to stall.

Taliban forces exchanged sporadic artillery and mortar fire with Masoud forces at his valley stronghold near Golbahar, but military analysts questioned whether the attackers could wrest the valley from Masoud, who defended it successfully against Russian troops for years.

In an effort to neutralize a possible ally of Masoud, the Taliban acting foreign minister appealed to General Abdul Rashid Dostum, who is leading his own army of Uzbek fighters, to remain neutral in the offensive against Masoud.

As the threat of increased hostilities continued, Afghanistan's

neighbors stepped up expressions of concern.

Iran, which is Shi'ite Muslim and has been hostile to the Sunni fundamentalist Taliban, said the prospects of peace in Afghanistan were poor if a single faction tried to govern alone.

"No ethnic group can run that country without an active contribution from the other ethnic groups," Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said on Iranian television, which was monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation. "And no religious group can run the country without a contribution from the others."

Earlier, Alexander Lebed, Russia's national security chief and a veteran of Moscow's 10-year war in Afghanistan, called the situation very tense.

Lebed, who spoke to reporters on Sunday on a visit to NATO headquarters, said, "These military actions may have negative repercussions."

NATO officials have expressed concern that instability in Afghanistan could have consequences for member-nation Turkey.

Poll: Most Britons against joining single European currency

LONDON (Reuters) - More than two in three Britons reject the idea of joining a single European currency in 1999, according to an opinion poll published in the Daily Telegraph yesterday.

The Gallup Poll survey for the newspaper found that 56 percent of respondents were against Britain joining a single currency if it were launched in the European Union in 1999 with only 25 percent in favor.

The remaining 19 percent didn't have an opinion.

Majorities in all three of Britain's main parties were opposed to joining a single currency - which would mean giving up sterling - in 1999, with supporters of the ruling Conservatives the most hostile.

The Conservatives, lagging in opinion polls as they face a general election within seven months, are deeply split over Britain's future role in the 15-nation European Union.

The Daily Telegraph said opinions were more mixed on how the government should handle the issue in the short term.

Some 37 percent felt Britain should say now it will never join the single currency and 14 percent said Britain should say now that it will. Another 37 percent backed Prime Minister John Major's policy of deferring a decision, while 12 percent said they didn't know.

Gallup interviewed 1,047 adults across Britain for the poll.

Major negotiated the right to opt out of a single currency when the project was agreed in 1991.

North Korea: US missionary was spying for Seoul

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - US officials are working toward winning the release of an American arrested in North Korea on spying charges, his cousin told the South Korean news agency Yonhap yesterday.

North Korea's official news agency announced Sunday that Evan Carl Humzike, 26, was arrested August 24 for spying for South Korea. Seoul has called the claim ridiculous.

"The United States has begun negotiations for the return of my cousin through the Swedish Embassy in Pyongyang," the cousin told Yonhap.

The cousin - identified only by his family name of Yun - said he was told by the US Embassy in

Beijing in September that Humzike had been arrested by North Korean officials on a small island in the middle of the Yalu River. The river serves as the border between China and North Korea.

"My cousin... is not capable of acting as a spy," Yun said.

Humzike left for China in mid-August, saying he wanted to do missionary work, Yun added.

Humzike, whose mother is South Korean, is a native of Alaska, and attended college in Yakima, Washington, he said.

Meanwhile, KBS Television, citing an anonymous government official, said that Humzike had been drunk when he went swimming in the Yalu River.

White House spokesman Mike

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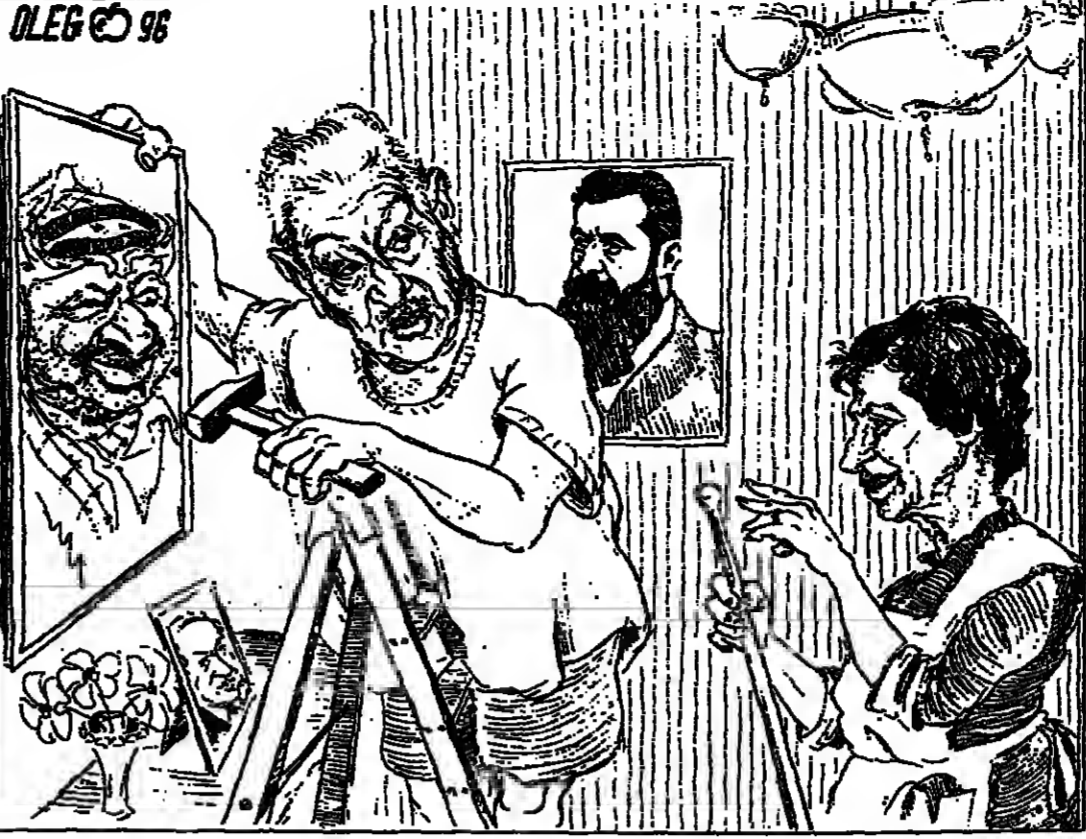
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Rethinking immunity

JERUSALEM Mayor Ehud Olmert deserves credit for asking the Knesset to lift his parliamentary immunity yesterday, so he can stand trial for his alleged involvement in a 1988 Likud fund-raising scam. The Knesset's public image is hardly improved by MKs using their immunity - in the words of State Attorney Edna Arbel - as a "city of refuge" to protect them from prosecution.



Myths of the Mideast

PRESIDENT Clinton has chosen his current top Mideastern priority and earnestly, almost desperately, announced it to the world. It is not the resurgence of Saddam Hussein, nor the military growth of Iran, or terrorism, not the Islamicist government in Turkey destroying the country's alliances with the West, not even China's sale of missiles and nuclear technology to assorted dictatorships. It is a town called Hebron.

Contract for women

SHARON SHENHAV

MORE than a year ago, I participated in the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, as a member of the official delegation of the State of Israel. This was the largest conference ever held by the UN, and I joined delegates from 189 countries in drafting the document which was adopted by the member states, the Platform For Action. We worked way into the night to reach consensus on issues of critical concern to women all over the world and in the process, made many good friends for Israel.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RED LINES
Sir, - It was only a few days earlier that Binyamin Netanyahu commented on his first 100 days in power: "I do not act in accordance with pressures, but rather in order to reach particular goals." Were recent events the goals Netanyahu had in mind?

THE TRUCK DRIVERS' CASE
Sir, - I refer to Ariel Hurwich Braud's letter of September 13, "No penalty." If she wants to know the name of the company whose truck was involved in the accident he mentions, she can ring me and I will give him the name, phone number and name of the managing director. As to suing the driver of the truck, he is really not to blame for the accident. Directly, he is to blame, but indirectly, it is the framework in which truck drivers work that causes these terrible accidents.

Firmness without purpose

MARK HELLER
Underneath the facade is a pattern of weakness: the government's initial inclination to follow its instincts and pander to its right-wing constituency generates Palestinian, Arab and international responses which ultimately oblige it to act in ways that arouse the suspicions of its supporters while gaining it little credit with anyone else.

The government's bravado comes perilously close to farce

The problem with this pattern does not lie in the refusal to set deadlines or even in the failure to meet them - the prime minister is right when he argues that advance deadlines for agreement usually turn out to be pointless or counterproductive. It lies, instead, in the conceptual underpinning of government behavior, which is that the Israeli-Palestinian relationship remains purely adversarial and that any gain by one side represents an equal and opposite loss for the other.

Inequality between women and men continues to persist

THE TIME has come to translate words into actions. Twenty years ago then-premier Yitzhak Rabin appointed a Commission on the Status of Women to study and make recommendations to ensure equality for women in Israel. Most of the commission's recommendations have never been implemented and despite significant advances in many areas, inequality between women and men continues to persist.

VIETNAM-TYPE WAR

Sir, In "Risk of a war no one wants" (September 20), Mark Heller departs from his usual cogency by claiming that since World War II, three terms have dominated thinking about war: Mein Kampf, Munich and Pearl Harbor. There is a fourth and more pertinent one: Vietnam. Wars of ethnic, religious and national liberation or secession, characterized by remarkable imbalances in air power and conventional weaponry in which the seemingly weaker side inflicts unacceptably high casualties

ISRAELI BARAK, Secretary, Northern Area, Truck Drivers Union of Israel Karmiel

DAVID H. ROSENBLUM
Washington, D.C.

Handwritten note: ماذا من الادل

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Other stock market indexes

Table showing FTSE 100, Nikkei 225, Hang Seng, and other international indices.

Israeli stocks in NY

Table listing various Israeli companies like Am I, Azura, and others with their prices and changes.

Comstock Trading Ltd. (Date 7-OCT-96)

INFLATION MARKETS

Dollar crossrates (US)

Table showing exchange rates for various currencies like DM, SF, Sfr, etc.

Labor rates

Table showing labor rates for different periods like 3 months, 6 months, etc.

Comstock Trading Ltd. (Date 7-OCT-96)

Foreign financial data courtesy of

CommStock Trading Ltd. Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds

INFLATION MARKETS

US commodities

Table listing prices for commodities like Corn, Soybean, Wheat, etc.

London commodities

Table listing prices for London commodities like Gold, Silver, Copper, etc.

London metal futures

Table listing London metal futures prices for Gold, Silver, etc.

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TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading

Table listing multi-sided trading for various companies like Adman, Azura, etc.

Two-sided trading

Table listing two-sided trading for various companies like Am I, Azura, etc.

PARALLEL LIST

Table listing parallel listed companies like Am I, Azura, etc.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Large table listing international stock prices for various companies across different markets.

SHARES gain nearly 1%

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL

Two-Sided Index

Maof Index

SHARE indexes rose nearly one percent yesterday, led by Nice Systems Ltd., a maker of digital voice-recording and logging equipment, and holding company Clal Israel Ltd.

"The market is moving slowly upward on small turnover," while investors await developments in the peace process and in the government's budget-cutting efforts, said Moshe Jonas, who runs the Jerusalem office of the brokerage Moritz and Tuchler.

If the political front improves and the budget is cut, "the market has a lot of potential," Jonas said.

The Two-Sided Index advanced 0.95% to 187.70, preliminary figures showed, while the Maof Index climbed 0.9% to 197.98.

The most active issue was Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., down 0.5% on trading of NIS 2.5 million worth of shares.

The company said on Sunday that the US Food and Drug Administration accepted its advisory panel's approval of Teva's first original drug, copaxone, a treatment for multiple sclerosis.

The acceptance is a key step toward final marketing approval for copaxone, Teva said.

Nice Systems advanced 4%, after leaping 10%, the daily limit, on Sunday. The stock went up 12.5% last Thursday and Friday in New York, prompting arbitrageurs to make up the price differential between the markets. (Bloomberg)

Shares gain nearly 1%

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Wall Street's bid for 6,000 enthralled European shares

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuter) - Wall Street's reconnaissance above 6,000 points helped European shares to end mostly firmer yesterday, although its inability to break higher killed off any independent ambitions the European markets might have had.

London and German shares touched new records in early trade, but were fading by early afternoon, when Wall Street came to their rescue by edging through 6,000 for the first time, touching a high of 6,002.17.

Wall Street soon retreated, however, and stood down 8.20 at 5,983.66 shortly after the European markets closed.

Share traders on both sides of the Atlantic are split between those who believe that US shares are now vulnerable to profit-taking and those who see prices rallying further as the US economy, which has been growing rapidly, slows to a more sustainable level of inflation-free growth.

London's FTSE Index settled at 6,002.17, a new record close, after profit-taking in gilts, T-bonds and in US stocks knocked the index off the day's earlier high of 6,046.8.

French shares closed fractionally lower on Wall Street, turning initial gains into small losses after speeding the day in a very narrow trading range.

Germany's DAX Index rose 19.36 points to 2,702.64, a new record closing high. Most of the gains were accounted for by the market catching up with the screen-based IBIS DAX Index, which hit 2,704.25 in post-bourse trading on Friday and ended at 2,705.21 yesterday.

The dollar was near session lows in late Europe but stayed locked in familiar ranges as a subdued market contemplated a week promising few trading incentives.

It dipped against the yen in the European afternoon after being unsettled overnight by Japanese calls for higher interest rates, traders said. But analysts saw little on the horizon likely to stir up the dollar ahead of US data due out on Friday.

Dow passes 6,000, closes just under it

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - The stock market's six-year rally poked through another barrier yesterday as the Dow Jones industrial average surpassed 6,000 for the first time.

Wall Street's best-known indicator rose to 6,002.17 less than a half hour after the market opened and took another short trip above the mark moments later.

In all, the Dow spent about five minutes starting with a six.

Profit takers wound up pushing the index down 13.05 points from Friday's close to 5,979.81.

Still, the rise above 6,000 was remarkable, simply because it followed so quickly on the heels of other big milestones.

It's been less than a year since the index of 30 blue-chip companies like IBM, General Electric and Coca-Cola first hit 5,000, and less than 20 months since it reached 4,000.

For the record, the average also closed below 5,000 after its first trip past that mark on November 20, 1994, but went past it the next day by gaining more than 40 points.

The Dow's quick rise since then has some investors worried that stock prices won't be able to hold on to their gains.

"The market is getting pricey. It's definitely time to be selective," said John Burke, who was mulling his options at a Fidelity Investments office near the New York Stock Exchange. "I would expect some sort of a pullback."

But others see no reason why the market can't extend its winning ways, especially with individual investors continuing to pour money in for the long haul.

It's other big milestones. The Dow has now gained about 16 percent from a low of 5,182.31 this summer, after a pullback blamed on fears that inflation, interest-rate hikes and weak profits from technology companies were around the corner.

But since then, investors have become more optimistic that economic growth is sustainable without rising inflation or higher rates.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Table showing currency cross-rates for MARK, STERLING, YEN, SF, and FF.

Comstock Trading Ltd.

